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A SURVEY OF VOCATIONAL STATUS OF FIFTY-
EIGHT GRADUATES OF DUNBAR
HIGH SCHOOL,
MEXIA, TEXAS

-By-

F. Morris

status
A SURVEY OF VOCATIONAL OF FIFTY-EIGHT
GRADUATES OF DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL,
MEXIA, TEXAS, SUBMITTED IN PAR-
TIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE RE-
QUIREMENTS FOR THE DE-
GREE OF

Bachelor of Science

in the

Division of Arts and Science

of the

Prairie View State Normal and In-
dustrial College

Prairie View, Texas

May, 1936

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The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to
To
My Beloved Sister
Mrs. G. Professor English, Principal Dunbar
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cooperation in this study.

A STUDY OF VOCATIONAL CHOICES OF FIFTY-
EIGHT GRADUATES OF DUNBAR
HIGH SCHOOL
MEXIA, TEXAS

OUTLINE:

1. INTRODUCTION

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Professor Stephen Parrish, Principal Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, for his suggestions and cooperation in this study.

2. SCOPE

3. LIMITS

4. MATERIAL

5. METHODS

6. COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

1. Number who attended college

2. Reasons for discontinuing college

3. Reasons for not going

7. VOCATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF FIFTY-
EIGHT GRADUATES OF DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

1. In school

(a) Type of occupations

(b) Amount of money earned
before finishing high
school

A SURVEY OF VOCATIONAL STATUS OF FIFTY-
EIGHT GRADUATES OF DUNBAR
HIGH SCHOOL
MEXIA, TEXAS

OUTLINE:

I. INTRODUCTION

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- B. Scope
- C. Method

II. BODY

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- 2. Age
- 3. Birth
- 4. Marital
- 5. Parents

B. College Attendance

- 1. Number who attended college
- 2. Reasons for discontinuing College
- 3. Reasons for not going

C. Occupational Distribution of fifty-eight graduates of Dunbar High School

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- (b) Amount of money earned before finishing high school

2. Since graduation

- (a) Length of time after graduation before securing employment
- (b) Length of time jobs were held
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- (d) Cause of shifts

3. Present occupation

- (a) Type of jobs held
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1. Effects of experience

D. The Influence of Dunbar High School upon the occupation of its graduates

- 1. Jobs which school aided graduates in securing
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E. The enfluence of graduates of Dunbar High School upon the community.

- 1. Prevalent Activities engaged in
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III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IV. CONCLUSION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this survey was to collect certain information on why the graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, do not attend college. Next a study of high school graduates as they actually fit into society; and the last reason is to study the high school graduate as an occupational type.

SCOPE

Conditions under which the study was carried on, called for certain limitations which were observed.

1. The study included fifty-eight graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas.
2. Investigations were limited to those students graduating in classes nineteen hundred thirty-five inclusive who did not attend college or who attended for a while, and for some reasons dropped out.

This study was conducted by the questionnaire interview. In order to secure data concerning high school graduates, specially constructed questionnaires by means of a house to house canvas.

First the writer visited the high school and secured a list of the graduates for the last four years, nineteen hundred thirty-five inclusive. Below will be found a copy of questionnaire used in the interview.

QUESTIONNAIRE
VOCATIONAL STATUS OF GRADUATES OF
TEXAS

NEGRO HIGH SCHOOLS

1. Name _____ 2. Sex _____
3. Present address _____
4. Age _____ 5. Born in City or Rural? _____
6. Number of Sisters _____ 7. Number of Brothers _____
8. Father living? _____ Mother? _____ Father and
mother separated? _____
9. Parents or Guardians rural or urban people? _____
10. Did parents or guardians own home when you graduated? _____
11. Did they own any other property? _____ What kind? _____
12. Are you married? _____ If so, how many children? _____
13. How long have you been married? _____
14. Give name and location of high school. _____
Give date of graduation. _____
15. What kind of work did you do in high school? _____
16. Was the work regular or part-time? _____ Seasonal _____
or for the entire year? _____
17. What was your monthly wage? _____
18. How many months per year did you work? _____
19. Have you attended college? _____ If so, why did you
stop? _____ If not, why not? _____
20. Do you still desire to extend your education? _____
21. What is your present occupation? _____

22. What is your present monthly wage? _____

23. Is your present position regular or part-time? _____

Seasonal or for the entire year? _____

24. How long have you held your present position? _____

25. Give names, dates, and length of time of other positions held since graduation.

Date	Position or Positions	No. of months held
1932	_____	_____
1933	_____	_____
1934	_____	_____
1935	_____	_____

26. Give reason or reasons for changing jobs.

Date	Reason for changing	Date	Reason for changing
1932	_____	_____	_____
	_____		_____
1934	_____	_____	_____
	_____		_____

27. How long after graduation was it before you secured employment? _____

28. List job or jobs which school aided you in securing since graduation. _____

29. List school courses taken by you in high school which have been of value in jobs held. _____

30. Is your wage affected by experience? _____

Is your salary raised because of service? _____

31. Does the salary of your present position depend upon _____

"piece work" or do you get a flat wage? _____

32. In which of the following community activities are you
a participant?

Name	Positions held by you
The Church _____	_____
The Lodge _____	_____
Social Clubs _____	_____
Others _____	_____

REMARKS

Personal Data---The writer was very anxious to determine the standard of living of the graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas. The writer sought information concerning the family; the number of males and females among the graduates. Information concerning their parents was sought. The marital status of the graduates was secured.

Of the fifty-eight graduates interviewed forty-six were males and twelve were females. The age level of these graduates was from 17 to 26 years. Table I shows the age level of fifty-eight graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas.

TABLE I:
Distribution of Fifty-eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas according to age

Age	Number of Graduates
26	6
25	4
24	5
23	9
22	10
21	10
20	5
19	2
18	2
17	1
Not stated	4
Total	58

From the survey it can be seen that of the fifty-

eight graduates interviewed according to their places of birth, seventeen were born in the rural and forty-one were born in the urban.

TABLE II

Distribution of fifty-eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to Place of Birth

Place of Birth	Number of Graduates
Rural	41
Urban	17
Total	<u>58</u>

It was found that the greatest number of brothers that any of the graduates had were found to be two.

TABLE III and TABLE IV show the number of sisters and brothers of the graduates.

TABLE III

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to the Number of Sisters

Sisters	Number of Graduates
1	20
2	10
3	21
4	22
5	20
6	7
7	6

TABLE IV
Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to the Number of Brothers

Brothers	Number of Graduates
0	20
1	15
2	21
3	21
4	12
5	0
6	12
Total	101

Two of the graduates were married under six months; one graduate had been married over one year and the other eight graduates had been married six to twelve months. TABLE V shows the length of time each graduate has been married.

TABLE V

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to Length of Time Married

Length of Time	Number of Graduates
Under six months	3
Six months	8
One Year	0
Two Years	1
Not married	46
Total	58

The survey reveals that most of the fathers of the graduates are living. Forty-six graduates stated that their fathers were living, while only twelve graduates stated that their parents were not living. The data also clearly reveals that most of the graduates' mothers are living. Forty-six of the graduates' mothers are living.

It was found that of the fifty-eight graduates interviewed, twenty-six stated that their parents were rural, while thirty-two graduates stated that their parents were urban people.

The survey reveals that forty-eight parents of the graduates owned their homes; ten parents of the graduates did not own their own home. Twelve parents owned other property besides their homes. TABLE VI shows the kind of property owned by the graduates' parents other than their homes.

TABLE VI
Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas According to Other Property Owned by Their Parents.

Other Property	Number of Graduates
Realestate	5
Live stock	4
Farms	3
Not any	46
Total	<u>58</u>

College Attendance of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas

It was found that twenty-seven of the graduates interviewed attended college at one time, while thirty-one graduates have never attended college. Various reasons were given by the graduates for not attending college. Thirty-nine of the graduates gave economic conditions as their reason for not attending college. Nineteen gave such reasons as; sickness and marriage. TABLE VII lists the reasons given by the graduates for not attending college.

TABLE VII

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to Reasons Given for not Attending College

Reasons	Number of Graduates
Illness	13
Got tired of school	5
Lack of money	34
Wanted to marry	6
Total	<u>58</u>

It was found that many of the graduates wish to continue their college education, because they realize the need for further education. The writer found that thirty-seven graduates wish to continue their education;

while only eleven graduates expressed no desire to further their education. Ten graduates did not state whether they desired to further their education or whether they did not.

Occupational Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas

Thirty-nine graduates of the fifty-eight graduates worked while attending school. Such jobs as paper boy, cooks, office boy, delivery boy, and common labor were given. TABLE VIII shows the types of jobs held by the graduates.

TABLE VIII
Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School According to Occupations Before Graduation

Occupation	Number of Graduates
Chauffeur	1
Cook.....	2
Field work	2
Maid	4
Nurse	2
Office work	2
Paper boy	2
Porter	2
Seamstress	1
Did not work	40
Total	<u>58</u>

It was found that the wages of most of the graduates who worked, while in high school ranged from four dollars to thirty dollars per month. TABLE IX shows the number who received the various wages for

work done while in high school.

TABLE IX

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to wages Received While in High School

Wage	Number of Graduates
0--4	12
5--9	5
10--14	15
15--19	6
20--24	8
25--30	12

The writer thought it wise to find out how much time elapsed between graduation and the first jobs held by the graduates. The majority of the graduates were able to secure employment under six months after graduation. TABLE X shows the length of time that lapsed before the graduates secured employment after graduation.

TABLE X

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to the Length of Time That Elapsed Before Securing Employment

Length of Time	Number of Graduates
Under six months	21
Over six months	12
One year	4
Two years	2
Did not work	18
Not stated	1
Total	58

It will be noted that the graduates held their particular jobs for different lengths of time.

TABLE XI shows the length of time each job was held.

TABLE XI

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to the Length of Time Jobs were Held

Length of Time	Number of Graduates
Under six months	24
Over six months	7
One Year	7
Two years	8
Did not work	12
Total	<u>58</u>

Some of the graduates held jobs that were seasonal, while others held jobs that were part-time. TABLE XII shows the number who held each type of job.

TABLE XII

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar, High School, Mexia, Texas, According to Types of Jobs Held Since Graduation

Type of Job	Number of Graduates
Entire	12
Part	4
Regular	28
Seasonal	10
Did not work	<u>4</u>
Total	58

There were several shifts made in the jobs held by the graduates since graduation. TABLE XIII shows the rate of shift in jobs held by the graduates since graduation.

TABLE XIII

Distribution of fifty-eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to the Rate of Shift in Jobs Held Since Graduation

Rate of Shift	Number of Graduates
03	1
47	2
811	3

There are various reasons why these graduates changed jobs. TABLE XIV shows the reasons why the graduates changed jobs.

TABLE XIV
Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to Reasons Given for Changing Jobs Since Graduation

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to Reasons Given for Changing Jobs Since Graduation

Reason	Number of Graduates Giving
Better pay	12
Harsh treatment	3
Shorter hours	16
Did not change	9
Did not work	18
Total	<u>58</u>

It was interesting to note that over half of the

fifty-eight graduates held jobs at present. TABLE XV shows the occupations held by the graduates at present.

TABLE XV

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to Occupation Held at Present

Occupation	Number of Graduates
Cook	3
House Keeping	16
Maid	8
Nurse	6
Orchestra leader	7
Not any	18
Total	58

The wages received by the graduates for present occupations will be shown in TABLE XVI.

TABLE XVI

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to Wages Received at Present

Wages	Number of Graduates
0--4	0
5--9	2
10--14	3
15--19	6
20--24	4
25--29	10
30--34	7

It was found that thirteen graduates holding jobs, at present, showed the lack of experience; this proved that the jobs held by these graduates were not those requiring so much skill and mental ability, but jobs calling for experience.

The Influence of Dunbar High School Upon the Occupations of its Graduates

Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, aided only ten of the fifty-eight graduates in securing jobs after graduation. Some of the graduates were reluctant in stating that the school obtained their jobs for them. It will be noted that thirty-one graduates stated that the school had not aided them in securing jobs. Ten graduates did not state whether the school had aided them in jobs held.

It was interesting to find out what courses taken by the graduates while in high school had been of any value to the graduates in number of jobs held. Most of the graduates stated that the course taken by them in high school that had been of value, was English. Twenty-two stated that English was more important to them because it aided them in expressing themselves. TABLE XVII shows the subjects taken by the graduates in

high school that have been of value in jobs held.

TABLE XVII

Distribution of Fifty-Eight Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, According to High School Subjects that Have Been of Value in Jobs Held

Subject	Number of Graduates
English	22
Home Economics	10
Manual Training	5
Physical Education	2
Reading	4
Spelling	3

The Influence of Graduates of Dunbar High School, Mexia, Texas, Upon the Community

It will be noted that the graduates had some influence upon the community. Table XVIII shows the position and the number of graduates who participated in some community activity.

TABLE XVIII

Position	Number of Graduates
President	5
Recreational Instructor	3
Secretary	21
Sunday school teacher	5
Superintendent	2
Treasurer	4

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Of the fifty-eight graduates interviewed, it was found that the ages range from seventeen to twenty-six years.
2. Of the fifty-eight graduates interviewed, forty-one were females and seventeen were males.
3. Of the fifty-eight graduates interviewed, ten graduates had wages ranging from fifteen to twenty dollars per month.
4. From the survey it was found that English was the subject that had proved to be of more value to the graduates in jobs held.
5. It was found that the graduates participated in the church, social clubs, and other community activities.
6. It was found that the graduates' chief reason for not going off to school was lack of finance.
7. Some of the graduates gave marriage as a reason for their not going off to college.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the data collected as a result of the survey that:

1. The courses taken by the graduates are not of much value to them in jobs held.
2. The graduates are interested in the welfare of the community.
3. The wages of the graduates are improved after graduation. It would be well if the high school would check up on these things and try to exert more influence upon its graduates.